Proposal to declare GAIL as 10th Ratna

1960. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to declare Gas Authority of India Ltd. as 10th Ratna by September, joining other Ratnas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with criteria for awarding Ratna;

(c) whether any of Public Sector Undertaking based in Andhra Pradesh has been awarded Ratna so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps to be taken by Union and State Governments to develop P.S.U. of Andhra Pradesh to this level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No decision has been taken as yet in this regard.

(c) No, sir. The Navratnas have been selected on the basis of their performance, prospects, potential to become global giants etc. The selection is not location based.

(d) Question does not arise.

LPG Connections in Bihar

1961. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total LPG connection holders in Bihar, as on date with details of domestic, commercial and industrial connections;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a very large waiting list of LPG consumers in the State in comparison to other States;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to clear the wait list and augment the LPG supply in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The details of the LPG customers with the Public Sector Oil Companies in Bihar as of 30.6.97 are as under:

Domestic	9.20 lakhs
Commercial and Industrial	1771

(b) to (d) The number of persons in the waiting list with the distributors of Public Sector Oil Companies in Bihar as on 30.6.97 is 4.32 lakhs against an all India waiting list of 142 lakhs. Efforts are constantly on to release LPG connections to applicants as early as possible. Plans have been drawn for higher availability of LPG by increasing the capacity of existing production sources, putting up new plants and higher import through existing and new facilities. Government has approved enrolment target of 10 lakh each for the first (April-June, '97) and second (July-Sept., '97) quarters of 1997-98, out of which LPG connections are being released in Bihar also. New connections are released depending on annual enrolment plans, slack with the distributors and wait list, etc.

LPG Production

1962. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total annual indigenous LPG production in the country at present and quantity being imported with details of the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what is the difference between the cost of indigenous LPG and imported one;

(c) how much subsidy is being given to the consumers by Government;